

From: Mark Schoenbaum
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please consider the attached letter with my opinion regarding the issue of the Microsoft Settlement.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

- Mark

=====

Mark Schoenbaum
Chief Technology Officer
Spot Systems, Inc.
(415) 982-8150 x217 | marks@spotsystems.com

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

If I am correct, it has been generally accepted that the free enterprise system allows for the creation of competitive products or services that will replace older similar products. This is true in all aspects of American commerce, and the IT industry stands as one excellent example of this. There is a seemingly endless variety of innovation and product upgrades available to the consumer.

But here I get a bit confused.

It appears as if Microsoft's competitors have so far been unsuccessful in their attempts to create a better line of products than Microsoft has. Many of them have tired in their efforts to do so through the front door of competition, and have instead formed an alliance with the federal government to shut Microsoft down through the dubious charge that Microsoft has violated some antitrust law. Forget that most consumers have any number of choices other than Microsoft products, and forget that most consumers actually prefer the simpler integration that Microsoft products provide with its OS.

This entire lawsuit has been odious from the beginning. This should have been dismissed long ago. However, now that there is a settlement in place, one that regulates virtually every facet of Microsoft's work, so that there is no doubt that Microsoft is playing fair. I am hoping that it will be accepted and sustained. Let's all put this mess behind us.

Sincerely,

Mark Schoenbaum
Chief Technology Officer
Spot Systems, Inc.